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THE NIAGARA REPORTER

FREE June 13, 2018 - June 19, 2018 NiagaraReporter.com Vol. 19, No. 5 FREE

Plenty of Space at the 'Open Air Artisan Market' in Downtown Niagara Falls

By: Nicholas D. D'Angelo

The Niagara Mist Open Air Artisan Market was an idea meant to recreate the kind of downtown tourist area the city had during the first half of the 20th Century.

An initiative driven by Mayor Paul Dyster's administration, the Artisan Market is to run between May 1st and September 30th, providing out-



door retail opportunities for some 50 vendors.

The idea is for vendors to sell products from inside tents along the sidewalks of Niagara Street – from Third Street to Rainbow Boulevard – only steps from the Niagara Falls State Park.

It is to operate daily between 9 am and 10 pm and present an opportu-

nity for people who want to make money this summer to run their own tourist-oriented small business.

Many residents of Niagara Falls recall Mayor Dyster's ill-fated Holiday Market from a few years ago that cost the city some \$500,000 and where the profits fell into the hands of one developer from Idaho. It was a shabby mess and a colossal failure.

(Cont. on pg. 2)

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Niagara Falls
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NIAGARA FALLS

Artisan Market Cont.

Concern over Dyster Administration's ability to bring development to Downtown Niagara Falls continues to grow.

Perhaps learning from past mistakes, the Artisan Market was not going to cost taxpayers anything. The idea was, in all honesty, not a bad one.

The application to become a vendor is free, but if you were approved there would be a one-time \$1,500 license fee that goes to the City of Niagara Falls. This fee would cover the entire season.

There were no other fees. Nor is there a percentage of profits that a vendor would have to share with the city. Whatever you made was yours

to keep.

However, like many of the Dyster administration's previous money-making endeavors, this one has fallen short of its goal.

The Artisan Market was supposed to provide tourists and residents alike an ambiance similar to what Lewiston experiences during the Lewiston Arts Festival or in Buffalo at Canalside during the summer months.

As it pertains to small businesses on Third Street, the Artisan Market was supposed to funnel tourists to them to eat or shop.



An abandoned tent along the Rainbow Parking Garage

Upon taking a day-trip to Downtown Niagara Falls on Sunday June 10th, it appears none of the administration's goals for the Artisan Market, no matter how well-intentioned, have come to fruition.

On a sunny and 70 degree day at the height of the tourist season - when you would certainly expect the city to be bustling with tourists, there was not a single vendor to be seen.

Granted, there was one vendor tent, but it was abandoned up against the Rainbow Parking Garage and blowing all over the place.

Possibly representing the failures of Dyster and his administration when it comes to economic development, this abandoned white tent, blowing in every direction with the wind, is indicative of more than just a failed idea to bring excitement to an otherwise depressing sight between First and Third Street along Niagara Street.

It shows that no amount of superficial or cosmetic changes can alter the true nature of what Dyster has allowed Downtown Niagara Falls to become: an absolute embarrassment.



The area designated for the Open Air Artisan Market between 1st and 3rd Street.

NIAGARA



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City Hall (basement)

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Niagara Falls Family Court (775 Third St.)

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Broadway Hotel (158 Main St.)

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Lakeside Market (337 Lake St.)

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Bandanas Bar & Grill (930 Lake Rd. (18F))

Public Library (240 Lockport St.)

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Village Diner (425 Main Street)

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Tim Hortons (all locations)

Wedge Liquors (825 Pine Ave.)

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Expensive Upgrades in Security Planned at Niagara Falls City Hall

Frank Parlato

A brave new world of security is planned by Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster for the city hall he now occupies. His plan includes:

Visitors to Niagara Falls City Hall will have to enter the building through the ground floor entrances. The basement entrance will be locked.

For some that means a difficult climb up stairs. And a long walk from the parking lot. But it is in the interest of safety, the mayor has indicated.

The new plan requires visitors, once inside, to present themselves to a Niagara Falls police officer who will ask for Photo I.D. and the purpose for visiting.

According to published reports, the changes were made because of "recent displays of violence around the world."

The return of a police officer is a large part of the security plan.

A few years ago, Mayor Dyster became the first mayor in the city's

history known to have stationed a police officer on duty at city hall.

For the past 120 years, prior to Dyster, there was no known problem with security at city hall - even when the city had a population of more than double its present, estimated 46,000 people.

Dyster stationed his officer in the lobby not far from his office. However, the officer did not require ID or ask where people were going. That's changing now.

Indeed, people could enter from the basement door - convenient to the parking lot - and walk up the stairs or ride the elevator to the second or third floors and avoid the first-floor policeman altogether.

No incidents were reported.

After a while, the city stopped deploying a police officer at city hall and in his absence, again there were no incidents of violence reported.

But with concerns of violence in Belfast, ISIS, Turkey, Afghanistan, Somalia and elsewhere - Dyster decided to beef up security. Since

he became mayor, Niagara Falls has risen to achieve the highest crime rate in New York State.

At city hall, there are already security cameras and panic buttons in and around Dyster's offices. But Dyster wants to invest additional taxpayer money to upgrade the present system with new, top of the line, high definition- wide angle security cameras, more panic buttons and an array of spyware and modern technology to ensure his safety.

Dyster will soon be proposing this upgrade to the city council for approval. The cost - when it is all done - which may be in phases - may be upwards of \$100,000.

While he may be unable to prevent the rise in crime for the rest of the city, he can at least insure his personal safety. If all goes well, the



Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster

security at City Hall will be as great or greater than the courthouse. It is not known if metal detectors will be in the first phase of Dyster's security plans.



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THE ACTION

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Armed robbery on 1800 block of Ontario. Suspects are a white male and white female. Said to have taken cash at gunpoint.

-Sinkhole forming on 600 block of 77th Street.

-Niagara Falls Police Department respond to 1000 block of 10th Street for suspicious female with chainsaw.

-Niagara Falls Fire Department on scene with NYS Parks Police on the Niagara Scenic Parkway at the Vanderbilt Stairs to the Gorge assisting with a body recovery.

-Niagara Falls Police Department receive call for assault at Family Dollar on Main Street for an assault. A female is said to have been forcibly pushed out of her wheelchair.

-Niagara Falls Police and Fire Department responding to 810 Portage Road for 15-year-old pedestrian struck by a vehicle.

-Cat freed after becoming wedged under vehicle.

-Vehicle rollover on the 500 block of 6th Street.

-Niagara Falls Police currently searching for person who snatched a woman's purse and then ran from them on the 500 block of 19th Street. This happened at the same time as federal agents were raiding a house about a half of block down.

Employee Suspected of Stealing \$500 from Hotel Room with Guest Still Inside

New employee can't wait until first payday; suspected of stealing \$500 from guest during first day on the job.

The owner of a Comfort Inn Hotel on Niagara Falls Boulevard told Niagara Falls police on Friday that he believes a new employee used a master key to steal \$500 cash from a guest's room during the night on his first day on the job.

A short time later, a woman staying in the hotel reported seeing someone "tall and skinny" crawling across her floor to get out of the room.

She later discovered her money was missing.

Sometime around 2:00 a.m., the male employee was left alone at the hotel's front desk when another worker left to begin preparing breakfast.

The owner of the hotel told police that there were only two other employees present at the time of the theft and surveillance video shows them in other areas of the hotel.

Surveillance video shows the new employee taking a master key to the hotel's fourth floor, at which point the video suddenly cuts off.

Niagara Falls Police are currently investigating the incident.

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Cat Freed After Becoming Wedged Under Vehicle



Photo courtesy of Samar Hamilton, The Action Niagara Falls

A small cat became trapped underneath a vehicle Tuesday morning after it darted out into traffic on Pine Avenue near Hyde Park Blvd.

The driver of the vehicle slammed on his brakes fearing that if he kept going there would be a good chance the cat would be injured or killed or killed.

Witnesses stated that they saw the cat run under the vehicle but didn't see it come out.

The driver, along with bystanders and officers from the Niagara Falls Police Department, attempted to locate the cat but were unable to.

Fortunately, Tom Jacob Towing came to the rescue and lifted the vehicle up high enough for someone to get underneath and get a better view of where the cat was.

As it turns out, it was wedged between the transfer case and undercarriage.

Several attempts to free the cat failed, so Tom Jacob offered to tow the vehicle free of charge to Giovanni Auto Repair on 11th street where a mechanic was able to free the cat.

The cat was unharmed.

Woman Driving Wrong Way Down Street Crashes and Flips Vehicle



Photo courtesy of Samar Hamilton, The Action Niagara Falls

A woman driving the wrong way down a one-way Street struck a parked car and sister vehicle over this afternoon around 2 p.m.

Witnesses say the woman was traveling at a high rate of speed going north in the 500 block of 6th Street.

The woman swerved to prevent colliding with a car traveling south, hit a parked car, and flipped her vehicle over.

While on the scene, the woman was observed acting very strange; yelling racist and anti-gay slurs at

spectators.

The woman became very combative with police when they told her that she was going to have to go to the hospital for a mental evaluation.

The woman tried to walk away from police; yelling at them in the process.

Officers placed the woman in cuffs for their safety and that of the EMTs.

She was transported to Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center and cited for multiple traffic violations.

Horrific Motor Vehicle Accident at 19th & Welch Avenue



Photos courtesy of Samar Hamilton, The Action Niagara Falls

18-Year-Old Driver Arrested at Thunder of Niagara Air Show for Gun Possession



of Homedale, Idaho, was in possession of a handgun.

Police say that the individual attempted to conceal the weapon and then claim to not know that it was there.

It is unknown at this time whether the individual intended to use said firearm at the show.

On June 10, 2018 at 9:49 a.m., during the admission of the Thunder of Niagara Airshow, random vehicle inspections were being done at the Tuscarora Gate at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

Brovont did not have a permit for the gun, in either Idaho or New York State, and was charged with second-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

One inspection, however, revealed that an 18-year-old operator, whose name is Simeon W. Brovont,

This is an ongoing criminal investigation.

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Restaurant Review: Nelsons Café



Jamie DePetris
Food Expert/Critic

Today's review is not only another place that I have never been to, but also one I haven't heard of! After eating there though it will be a tough one to forget!

Nelsons Café on River Road in Niagara Falls might just be the hidden treasure trove that you have been waiting for.

What a great little place! Nelson's is only open for breakfast and lunch. On this visit I decided to try the breakfast, although I will definitely be back for the lunch soon!

I ordered the Veggie Omelet, and oh my goodness did I love it!

!t was huge and overflowing with peppers, mushrooms, tomatoes, spinach and smoked Gouda cheese.

My omelet was served with thick Italian toast and home fries mixed with fried onions.

The home fries were seasoned perfectly and cooked crispy yet tender.

My partner in crime, Mandy, had the "Nelson's Breakfast Special," which consisted of 2 eggs, 2 chocolate chip pancakes, bacon and home fries.

Of course I tried everything on her plate that wasn't on mine. I couldn't help myself!

The pancakes were fluffy and gooey with chocolate chips. Super good!

The bacon was thick and crispy. It couldn't possibly have been cooked any better.

Although we did not try it this time, the waitress told me that they are famous for their cinnamon swirl pancakes!

In fact, a little girl who was at the table beside us ordered them and they smelled out of this world



Nelsons' famous cinnamon swirl pancakes!!

(which is maybe where my blood sugar would be if I ate them!).

Needless to say, I will be trying them the next time along with my lunch.

I was so excited to find new place to start going to for breakfast and now I can add Nelsons to my list!

The feel of the restaurant is very inviting and the staff was wonderful.

Nelson's is definitely worth the time.

The waitress told us they have lines out the doors daily so get there

early or you'll miss great food.

Don't forget to tell them Jamie sent you!



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'Why Memorial Day is Important to Me' Essay Winner: Alyssa Davis, LaSalle Preparatory School



In addition to putting together the Memorial Day Parade, Niagara Falls City Councilman Ken Tompkins also partnered with the Niagara Falls School District and have an essay contest. The theme was "why Memorial Day is important to me."

The winning essay is included below:

Although I haven't lost anyone in battle, Memorial Day is still an important day because of my grandfather. He served in the Navy for 4 years and one of his comrades, Mike Estock, was killed in action (KIA).

On this day, he commemorates the loss of his friend with us. We celebrate as a family that we didn't lose him too.

Some days I find myself thinking what if it was my grandfather who was killed?

Would we mourn the death of my grandpa Lawrence Ridley?

I then feel so scared and remember how much I love and respect him.

Memorial Day is important to me because instead of his friend, I could have so easily lost my

grandfather. Every day I respect my grandfather a little more for his service.

I am so thankful that I can see him every day.

The Estock family has my condolences, and I'm so sorry that they lost their loved one.

I'm so grateful that my grandfather came home to his beautiful wife and spent his entire life helping my family and me grow up into respectable people.

My grandfather taught me so many things from simple house chores and garden work to manner and talking to others without being shy. I would have never learned most of this if he died in the war.

If I had to commemorate him on Memorial Day, sadly his legacy

wouldn't have as much of an impact on my daily life because I would have never go close to him.

This is why Memorial Day is so important to me.

Alyssa Davis
LaSalle Preparatory School
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NORTH TONAWANDA

'Thursday's on the Water' Concert Series Announced



Brendan McDonough

A press conference was held at Gratwick Riverside Park in Thursday, June 7th, 2018, announcing the "Thursdays on the Water" events.

Mayor Pappas, along with promoter Jesse Gooch, city officials, and several sponsors gathered to make the announcement.

"Thursday's on the Water concert events is a unique family event that brings live music to the Niagara waterfront of North Tonawanda, while offering a cruise night, classic car show, food trucks and vendors, a kid zone and more," said Mayor Pappas.

"This was a huge success last year and will continue to be for years to come."

The ambiance of Gratwick Riverside Park is one of the reasons these concerts are so special according to event organizers.

"One of the things we're happy and proud to be able to do is hold events for our City at Gratwick Riverside Park. It's a beautiful venue with the river behind us and it draws a lot of people every summer."

"People from all over Western New York come here and it couldn't possibly be in a better place as it's right between the City of Niagara Falls and Buffalo. Any type of event we have here it attracts many and many hundreds of people and we're proud to have things like this."

The concert series, which is completely free, will run from 5:00-9:00 p.m. on Thursdays from June 14th to August 16th (not including July 5th and 19th).

Food and beverage vendors will be

on site selling food, pop and alcoholic beverages.

In addition to the concerts, there will be an interactive kids zone, encompassing a climbing wall, games, and a photo booth, and a DJ to play music in between sets.

Jesse Gooch made sure to point out that the concert is "boat friendly." Blankets and chairs are also a good idea.

Sponsors for the event include Greater Niagara Federal Credit Union, Farmers Insurance, Niagara Gutter, Trinity Detail, Audio One, Painters Plus, Submasters, The Meeting Place, Solidays, The Music Shop, JG Production, Tread City Tire, Hunt Real Estate, Canalside Wine and Spirit, Niagara Climbing Center, and Firepower Industry.

The full concert list includes:

June 14, The A-List Band

June 21, Tiny Music (Stone Temple Pilots tribute)

June 28, 90 West

July 12, Floyd Concept (Pink Floyd tribute)

July 26, Strictly Hip

Aug. 2, The Phil and John Show

Aug. 9, 21 Gun Salute (AC/DC tribute)

Aug. 16, That '80s Hair Band

For more information visit www.thursdaysonthewater.com.

North Tonawanda Family Hoping to Raise Money and Awareness About Cystic Fibrosis

Brendan McDonough

Though music a family in North Tonawanda is hoping to raise money and awareness about Cystic Fibrosis.

Every week the Wolffer is at the Farmers Market with their grinding machine.

Their grand daughter was diagnosed with the terminal illness at age 3. She is now almost 20.

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic disorder that affects the respiratory and digestive system and is often fatal.

About 70,000 people in the world are currently living with Cystic Fibrosis. It can cause buildup of mucus in the body that can block the ducts of the pancreas.

For this North Tonawanda trying raise money for research is something they do every weekend.

"We do this every Saturday that the weather allows, for about 2 hours a time and we usually raise about one hundred dollars and it all goes to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and they use it for research," said Elaine Wolffer, North Tonawanda Resident.

In addition to raising money they are also hoping to educate people about the disease.

"I think people are getting to know more and more about it because we sponsor walks. I think the more people that realize that it is an in-curable disease and it is a small disease. We do not have funding we have to raise all our own money, people have to realize that if you give one year, that you but it is on-



North Tonawanda resident Elaine Wolffer who showed us what it means to 'grind for cystic fibrosis.'

going," said Wolffer.

The life expectance is now up to 42 years and while they say advances are being made, much more still needs to be done.

"When our granddaughter was originally diagnosed I said this may not be cured in my life time but maybe you can manage it like diabetes and I think that could be happening and for that we are thankful, so that is why we do this," said Wolffer.

Until there is a cure this North Tonawanda family says they will continue to be here giving up their time, to help their much-loved granddaughter.

If you would life to help the family they are at the Farmers Market every weekend.

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June 5th Common Council Meeting in Review



Ethics panel, new condominium unit, salary increases, and more discussed.

Brendan McDonough

The sparks were flying inside North Tonawanda City Hall on Tuesday June 5th. At issue was the request by Alderman-at-Large Austin Tylec for the Common Council to form an ethics panel.

Council President Eric Zadzilka said that the county already provides an impartial panel that the city utilizes if the need ever arises.

Tylec, however, would like to see one formed locally. Council already has one out of Lockport City Hall, but residents would like to see one more locally formed.

One of the major issue for residents in a project on 1100 Sweeney Street, that is in litigation. Proposed is to build 64 low cost condominium unit. Many residents are against it because it would be losing four acres of green space and trees that are more than 80 years old. Some say they want an ethic panel formed to see if the proper channels have been followed regarding the project.

The Common Council declined to make comments on the development because of the pending litigation.

Other issues discussed last night was the proposed salary increase of the Superintendent of Wastewater/ Water from 89,894 to 99,052, they tabled the issue for further review.

Niagara River Cruises will also be making a splash in North Tonawanda. The Council approved the request for Niagara River Cruises to establish their business at Gateway Park on Sweeney Street.

A temporary groundskeeper from June to September 2018, will be maintaining Webster, Manhattan and Oliver Street. The position will be under the supervision of the Park and Recreation Department.

North Tonawanda High School Celebrates Graduating Seniors at Annual Picnic



Thursday June 7th was the annual North Tonawanda High School Senior Picnic.

The event was held at Gratwick Fire Hall and hosted by the North Tonawanda Police Department.

Mayor Pappas was in attendance, along with Alder-



man-at-Large Bob Pecoraro, Niagara County Legislator Rich Andres, High School Principal James Fisher and High School Assistant Principal Brad Rowles.

“This is a great event each year on the last day of school and allows the students to enjoy the day with



food and beverages, sign yearbooks, and get together one last time before graduation,” said Mayor Pappas.

“North Tonawanda is truly a special place to live and we look forward to seeing what all of these young adults accomplish in the future.”

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Mayor Pappas, Senator Ortt and Others Join NT Fire Department to Unveil New Rescue Vehicle



Mayor Pappas joined Senator Robert Ortt, Alderman-at-Large Bob Pecoraro, 1st Ward Alderman Mark Berube, and the North Tonawanda Fire Department as they revealed the station's new light rescue vehicle Monday afternoon.

This new vehicle was purchased thanks to a \$100,000 grant from Senator Ortt and a \$100,000 contribution from the City of North Tonawanda.

It replaced an eight-year-old model that was used by the department.

More of a supplies/equipment vehicle, this truck will make the lives of NT fireman easier and ensure that there is no tool not at their disposal in the event of an emergency.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Niagara Falls Public Water Authority will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 5:00 pm in the upstairs Conference Room at the Michael C. O'Laughlin Municipal Water Plant, 5815 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls, NY.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of LA HACIENDA RESTAURANT & PIZZA LLC
 LA HACIENDA RESTAURANT & PIZZA LLC, filed Articles of Organization with the NY State Secretary of State ("NYSSS") on May 4, 2018; the LLC is located in Niagara County; NYSSS is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it can be served; a copy of any process served upon NYSSS will be mailed to the LLC at 2902 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14301; the purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act of activity.

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Here Comes the Sun: Getting a Handle on Heat Stress

Summer brings waves of rising temperatures and stuffy humidity during the busy time of year for the construction industry. It's not uncommon to see sweating workers toiling in high-heat conditions on steaming asphalt. Heat and humidity are a serious health threat to workers. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 20 construction workers die from heat-related illnesses each year. The risk of heat-related illnesses depends on many factors, such as the worker's fitness, the weight of their clothing, their amount of exposure to direct sunlight and how strenuously they are working. But it is rising environmental temperature and humidity that tips the scale toward a clear and present danger for workers. Heat-related illnesses can range from cramps and rashes to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Fortunately, LIUNA's members and signatory contractors can work together to prevent heat-related illnesses. Water, shade and periodic rest breaks are what workers need to stay safe and perform their best when heat sets in.

The body naturally builds up heat when working, then seeks to get rid of this excess heat. However, when the body is also being heated by external sources, such as placing hot asphalt on a highway job, it becomes difficult for the body to cool off. Hot environments also increase the risk of injury, as they can result in sweaty palms, fogged safety glasses or burns. Heat also leads to fatigue, slowing down workers and lowering job performance.

According to OSHA, there are three non-negotiable fundamentals when it comes to protecting workers from heat illness:

- Provide cool water and encourage workers to drink it all day. Workers should drink at least a cup of water every 15 minutes during high-heat conditions.
- Provide shade or a cool environment for workers to take breaks.
- Put workers on breaks frequently during high heat. Allow workers who observe or experience heat illness symptoms additional rest breaks.

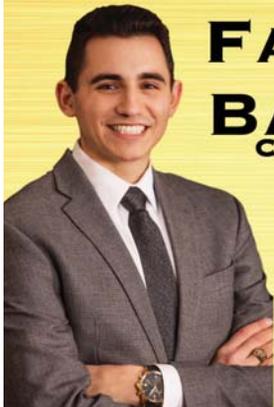
There are no federal OSHA standards or requirements to protect workers from heat illness. There are only the general guidelines provided by OSHA and the CDC that are listed above. The LHSFNA's Preventing Heat-Related Illnesses in Construction pamphlet and Heat Stress Prevention toolbox talk can help LIUNA signatory employers reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses on site. Use sunscreen towlettes, lip balm, neck cooling clothes and neck protectors available at the training facility to protect you from as much sunlight and heat as you can. This summer, let's make sure we all work together to protect one another from this common but preventable hazard.

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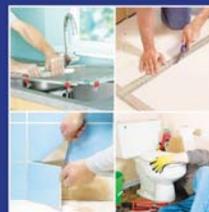


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